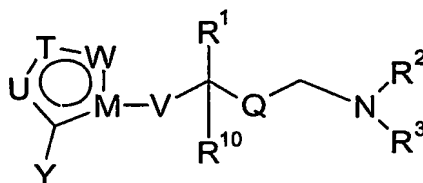


CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

10 Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C=CH, NO₂, CH₂OH, CHO, COCH₃, NH₂, NHCHO, NHCOCH₃, or NHSO₂CH₃; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

15 T, U and W independently represent CX, N, NR⁹, O or S(O)_m, except that at least one of T, U and W must represent a heteroatom and except that not more than one of T, U and W may represent NR⁹, O or S(O)_m; m represents an integer 0, 1 or 2; and each X group independently represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, OH, SH, CN, C=CH, N(R¹¹)₂, NO₂, CH₂OH, CHO, COCH₃ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

20 V represents NR⁴, O, CH₂, S(O)_n, OCH₂, CH₂O, NR⁴CH₂, CH₂NR⁴, CH₂S(O)_n, S(O)_nCH₂, CH₂CH₂ or CH=CH;

n represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

M represents C, and when M is bonded to a CH₂ moiety in V, then M may also represent N;

R¹⁰ represents H or Me.

5 Q represents (CH₂)_p and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R¹ represents phenyl or a five or six membered aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from
10 halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, CN, NO₂ or NR⁵R⁶; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R² and R³ independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally substituted by C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, -Z-NR⁷R⁸, phenyl or a
15 five or six membered aromatic or saturated heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, CF₃, OCF₃, CN or NO₂;

20 Z represents -CO- or a bond;

R⁴ and R¹¹ independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl;

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent H or C1 to 4 alkyl;

25

R⁹ represents H, C1 to 4 alkyl, CHO, COCH₃, SO₂CH₃ or CF₃;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, wherein V represents $S(O)_n$ and n represents 0.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein Y represents CN.

4. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, which is:
3-[[[(1S)-2-amino-1-phenylethyl]thio]-5-methyl-2-thiophenecarbonitrile;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

7. The use of a compound of formula (I) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial.

8. The use as claimed in Claim 7 wherein it is predominantly inducible nitric oxide synthase that is inhibited.

9. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases.

10. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is inflammatory bowel disease.

11. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

12. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is osteoarthritis.

13. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a
5 pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the
treatment or prophylaxis of pain.

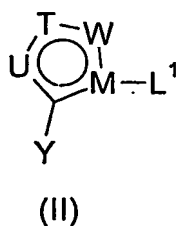
14. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a COX-2 inhibitor, in the
10 manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases.

15. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, human diseases or conditions in which
inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial which comprises administering a
therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of
15 Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or at
increased risk of, such diseases or conditions.

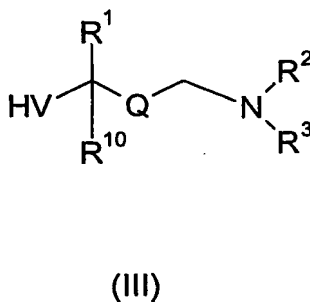
16. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, inflammatory disease in a person suffering
from, or at risk of, said disease, wherein the method comprises administering to the person a
20 therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of
Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof.

17. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of
Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof,
25 wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)

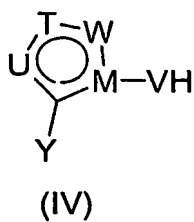


wherein T, U, W, Y and M are as defined in Claim 1 and L¹ represents a leaving group,
with a compound of formula (III)



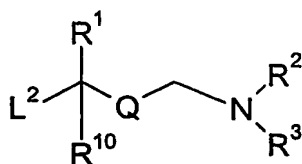
wherein R¹, R², R³, R¹⁰, Q and V are as defined in Claim 1; or

10 (b) reaction of a compound of formula (IV)



15

wherein T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1,
with a compound of formula (V)

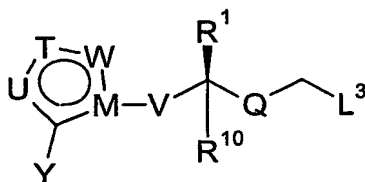


(V)

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^{10} and Q are as defined in Claim 1 and L^2 is a leaving group; or

(c) reaction of a compound of formula (VI)

5



(VI)

wherein R^1 , R^{10} , Q, T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1 and L^3 is a leaving group,

10 with a compound of formula (VII)

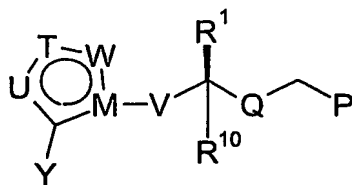


(VII)

wherein R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Claim 1; or

15

(d) reduction of a compound of formula (VIII)

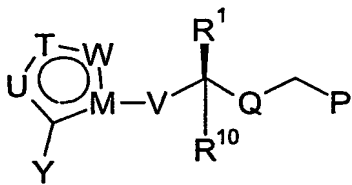


(VIII)

wherein R^1 , R^{10} , Q, T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1 and P represents azide (N_3); or

5

(e) hydrolysis of a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

10 wherein R^1 , R^{10} , Q, T, U, W, M, Y and V are as defined in Claim 1 and P represents an imide group;

and where desired or necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting one compound of
 15 formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.